

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 are amended by this amendment. No new matter is added. Claim 2 is cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2001/0050914 to Akahane et al. (hereinafter referred to as Akahane). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is directed to a packet routing device respectively having “a plurality of packet processing units each having a routing table, wherein each packet processing unit, in the case of receiving a packet received at a receipt port and addressed to a user terminal, searches, as a receiving-side packet processing unit, for a transmitting-side packet processing unit and a transmitting-side VPN identifier corresponding to a receiving-side VPN identifier and a destination network address of the packet from a routing table, and ***forwards the packet to a packet processing unit corresponding to the transmitting-side packet processing unit via the switch, the transmitting-side VPN identifier indicating a VPN to which a transmission destination of the packet belongs and the receiving-side VPN identifier indicating a VPN to which a transmission source of the packet belongs***, and, in the case of receiving a packet and a transmitting-side VPN identifier from a receiving-side packet processing unit via the switch, searches, as a transmitting-side packet processing unit, for a transmission port corresponding to the transmitting-side VPN identifier and to a destination host address of the packet from the routing table, and forwards the packet to the transmission port searched for”. Furthermore, the packet routing device of amended claim 1 includes “***the routing table having an entry mutually used with respect to both of routing for packet communication***

in a VPN when a transmitting-side VPN identifier is the same as a receiving-side VPN identifier and routing for packet communication between different VPNs when a transmitting-side VPN identifier is different from a receiving-side VPN identifier”.

The packet routing device as recited in amended claim 1 may use the same entry in the routing table with respect to **both** of routing for packet communication in a VPN to transmit packets to a transmission destination, and routing for packet communication between different VPNs to transmit packets to the transmission destination.

It is respectfully submitted that the Akahane does not disclose, teach or suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Akahane does not disclose, teach or suggest “packet communication between different VPNs”, as presently recited in each of the independent claims. Akahane apparently merely discloses communication in a VPN and routing tables for each of VPNs.

Independent claims 7 and 8, as amended, include the foregoing features of claim 1, substantially. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 7 and 8 patentably distinguish over the cited reference Akahane and are allowable. Claims 3-6, which depend from claim 1, are also allowable therewith. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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